

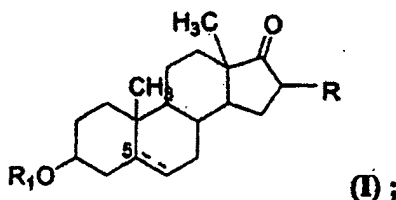
**Amendments to the Claims**

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

**Listing of Claims:**

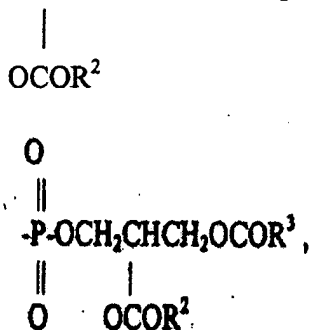
Please enter the following amendments:

1. (Currently Amended) A pharmaceutical or veterinary composition, comprising a carrier or diluent, a dehydroepiandrosterone, or pharmaceutically or veterinarily acceptable salts thereof, the dehydroepiandrosterone having the chemical formula



wherein the broken line represents a single or a double bond; R is hydrogen or a halogen; the H at position 5 is present in the alpha or beta configuration or the compound of chemical formula I comprises a racemic mixture of both configurations; and R<sup>1</sup> is hydrogen or SO<sub>2</sub>OM, where M is selected from H, Na, sulfatide

-SO<sub>2</sub>O-CH<sub>2</sub>CHCH<sub>2</sub>OCOR<sup>3</sup>; or phosphatide



wherein R<sup>2</sup> and R<sup>3</sup>, which may be the same or different, are straight or branched (C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>14</sub>)